



News From The ...

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Jeff Miller, Chairman, 335 Cannon House Office Building, Washington D.C. 20515

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CONTACT: Amy Mitchell (202) 225-3527

***** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

Support Builds for the VOW Act

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, the U.S. House of Representatives will vote on the most comprehensive jobs legislation introduced to end veteran unemployment – the [Veterans Opportunity to Work Act of 2011](#) (the VOW Act). On Friday, the Bureau of Labor Statistics released the latest unemployment figures, and while the national unemployment rate held at 9.1%, there was an alarming rise in veteran unemployment – from 7.7% to 8.1% nationwide.

[Despite attempts to misrepresent the legislation](#), the VOW Act [provides common ground for Republicans and Democrats](#) to come together to advance job legislation for America's veterans.

“We need to stay focused on the mission, and that is helping our veterans find jobs,” stated Rep. Jeff Miller, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. “We cannot afford to allow political grandstanding to get in the way of accomplishing our goal.”

The VOW Act will create the most qualified, skilled workforce since World War II by providing veterans of past eras with training benefits, ensure all transitioning servicemembers have access to a 21st Century Transition Assistance Program (TAP), move toward a uniform credentialing and licensing standard for servicemembers transitioning to civilian employment, and strengthen the protections under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act for National Guard and Reserve.

“The objective of the VOW Act is to use a comprehensive approach to help a broad cross-section of veterans obtain or retain meaningful employment, but to do so in a fiscally responsible manner that doesn't create permanent, new programs,” said Miller.

The VOW Act has received solid support from Veterans Service Organizations and Military Service Organizations including The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, the Fleet Reserve Association, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, the Military Officers Association of America, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the National Association of Uniformed Services, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Vets1First, the Military Coalition – a consortium of uniformed services and veterans associations, as well as the National Association of Realtors. The letters can be read [here](#).

For more news from the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, please visit:

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